Canadian Film Weekly
VOICE of the CANADIAN MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY

Vol. 8, No. 3 TORONTO, JANUARY 14th, 1942 $2.00 Per Annum

Wolfe Cohen Vita. Vice-Prexy

Promotion Follows Leserman's Move to United Artists

Announcement was made here this week that Wolfe Cohen has been made Vice-President of Vitagraph, Ltd., replacing Carl Leserman. Mr. Cohen has been Canadian District Manager for the company since 1936, and in other capacities for 17 years.

It is the first time that a Canadian has been named an officer in the film firm. Complete charge of all operations in the Dominion goes with the advancement.

Mr. Cohen joined the organization when Warner Bros. took over the Vitagraph exchanges in Canada in 1925, becoming branch manager in St. John. Later he was made exchange chief in Winnipeg, with jurisdiction over the Calgary branch as well.

With one exception, a short stint with the Canadian Red Cross in charge of overseas shipments during the first World War, he has spent all his business career in Canadian film distribution. Starting as a poster clerk in 1917 in the Toronto office of Famous

(Continued on Page 2)

Ottawa Ponders Pegged Rentals

The government has appointed R. G. McMullen director of the Theatres and Film Section of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board to judge questions arising from the operation of price ceiling regulations. His offices will be in Toronto.

McMullen met with independent exhibitors this week and revealed Ottawa's interest in film rentals. A fixed policy will be reached after conferences with both independents and circuits.

Two new developments arose

(Continued on Page 2)

Delay 'Gold Rush'

Charlie Chaplin's old-timer, "The Gold Rush," modernized with sound and narration, has been held back until the end of this month. Release was to have taken place right after the new year.

It will be tested in picked spots to help figure selling policy.

It's a UA special.

Trapped with Gene Tierney? That's for Us, Say RCAF Lads

The boys of No. 5 station of the Royal Canadian Air Force, Brantford, their minds turning on ways and means to ease the irksomeness of being lost in flight, decided that the best remedy would be to have Gene Tierney, Fox star, with them.

Gene was properly flattered on being notified. She sent them a large and beautiful photo of herself, wishing them "Success and Love." The boys, who don't miss any bets, are thinking or raffling off for smokes and stuff.

The 21-year-old star, whose fame is still growing, was picked over Lana Turner, Veronica Lake, Hedy Lamarr, Dorothy Lamour and anyone else you could name.

To the lively station paper, "The Sky-Line," edited by P.O. T. R. Lee, Miss Tierney sent the following message:

"Dear Fledglings and Flyers:

"I can truthfully say that there is no one I would rather be lost with 2000 feet up in the air than

(Continued on Page 2)

To Honor Hays

Hollywood is planning an industry banquet in praise of Will Hays. In March he reaches his 20th year in the business.

Waldorf-Astoria, New York, will be the place.

Maybe He Was Hard of Herring?

On the Squareheads are chuckling about the well-known Toronto film feller who gave vent with a vengeance to his hankering for herring.

The Toronto man knew that a New York exec who was due that day to talk business with him travelled by air. He wired the Gothamite to drop into Lindy's on Broadway and pick up a container of that famed marinated stuff.

He did—and the Toronto man had it a dinner that evening.

Ain't civilization wonderful?

'Waltz' Again

The shades of Johann Strauss will have squatter's rights at the Victory theatre, Toronto, if the waltz king's work gets many more dates there. The house, one of the finest and largest of a district nature, is playing MGM's "The Great Waltz" for the ninth time. After continued customer requests.

The management isn't sure about it being a farewell performance. Cagey billing reads: "Possibly your last chance to see this superb production."

Royal Slows Up

Toronto's only legitimate house, the Royal Alexandra, which falls back on movie roadshows occasionally, is having a tough time getting plays and musicals to come in.

House will try a dance recital by Veloz and Yolanda later this month.

UA Canadian in Own Division

As an important step in the realignment of the United Artists sales set-up, Carl Leserman, General Sales Manager of the company, announces the creation of three Divisions in place of two. To the Eastern Division, headed by Harry L. Gold, and the Western Division, headed by Bert M. Stearn, has been added the Canadian Division with David Coplan as Division Manager.

The Canadian Exchanges heretofore included in the Western Di-

(Continued on Page 2)

'Dumbo' Denied Quebec Kids

Children in the province of Quebec were denied a chance to see the Disney-RKO hit, "Dumbo," by the refusal of government officials to suspend the law which prevents the admission of children under 16 to theatres, accompanied by parents or otherwise. Numerous requests by mail were received at the capital requesting that precedent set by the showing of "Snow White' be observed for the holiday season.

The technicolor cartoon, pronounced by many to be the best

(Continued on Page 2)

Movie-Television

Norman H. Waters of the American Television Society and Will Hays are talking over the idea of televising a series of short subjects, starring famed Hollywood players.

The subjects will deal with recruiting and war effort drives. One such has already been broadcast by the television people and it is thought that Hollywood co-operation would stimulate the form of activity greatly.

MOVIE PROBE CALLED OFF

Chairman D. Worth Clark announced the dissolution of the much-deplored Senate Investigation of the motion picture industry, which occupied the Washington stage a while back. In his report to the Senate Interstate Commerce Committee, which appointed the quiz sub-committee, he stated that it was done "in the interest of national unity."

Film Weekly
FORMERLY
THE CANADIAN MOTION PICTURE EXHIBITOR

VOL. 8, NO. 3 JAN. 14th, 1942

HYE BOSSIN, Managing Editor

Published by Film Publications of Canada, Limited, 5th floor, Hermant Building, 21 Dundas Square, Toronto, Ontario. Phone ADelaide 4310. Printed at 78 Wellington Street West, Toronto.

Price 5 cents each, or $2.00 per year

Address all communications to The Managing Editor
CANADIAN FILM WEEKLY
21 Dundas Square
Toronto, Canada

28

Congrats

The appointment of Wolfe Cohen as Vice-President of Vitagraph, Ltd., Warner Brothers' Canadian company, can be taken as a compliment to Canada as well as a tribute to Wolfe Cohen.

Wolfe Cohen, a Canadian born in the British Isles, replaces an American, Carl Leserman, in the position. A minor matter from an international standpoint, as we regard things over here. But it can be interpreted as recognition that Canada, a great film territory, does best under Canadian thinking and Canadian knowledge of our particular film field problems. That is the simple and direct way to analyze anything best. Make it the job of a man bred in the field.

Canadian film men everywhere will take personal pleasure from Wolfe Cohen's promotion, since none are spoken of in friendlier tones than the present Canadian manager of Warners.

Wolfe Cohen

(Continued from Page 1)

Players Film Service, the old Allen setup, a year later he was promoted to assistant cashier in the same location. Another twelve months gained him a boost and switch to St. John in the capacity of booker. In 1920 he became office manager of the Montreal branch. After two years at this post he left FPFS to accept a salesman's job with Regal Films in St. John, where he remained until joining Vitagraph.

Mr. Cohen is a British subject by birth, coming to Canada with his parents in 1907 from his native city of Belfast, Ireland.

'Dumbo'

(Continued from Page 1)

Disney effort to date, was restricted to adult patronage and the boxoffice, robbed of the juvenile boom, did not enjoy the strong grosses of other spots.

The law which bans juveniles from theatres under any circumstances resulted from a tragic fire 10 years ago. There was a shocking death toll and the enactment of the law met with general satisfaction. The sharp edge of the tragedy has been worn off by time for many but the reconsideration isn't strong enough to cause the law to be rescinded.

United Artists

(Continued from Page 1)

vision will now operate as a separate entity in the United Artists sales organization. Leserman also announced that transfer of the exchanges in the Southern District —including New Orleans, Dallas, Atlanta, and Charlotte—to the Western Division under Stearn.

President Roosevelt Makes Known Censorship Policy

President Roosevelt has informed Lowell Mellett, newly designated Co-ordinator of Government Films, that there is to be no censorship or restriction of the cinema industry except that "which dictates of safety make imperative."

"The American motion picture is one of our most effective media in informing and entertaining our citizens," Mr. Roosevelt wrote Mellett in a letter published in the Federal Register. "The motion picture must remain free insofar as national security will permit.

"I want no censorship of the motion picture; I want no restrictions placed thereon which will impair the usefulness of the film other than those very necessary regulations which the dictates of safety make imperative."

Mr. Roosevelt informed Mellet he would have four primary functions:

1. Serve as Government liaison officer "with theatrical, educational and industrial producers and distributors in connection with the preparation, production and distribution of films."

2. Establish a clearance office for Government films which are to be distributed to theatres or non-theatrical organizations.

3. Plan for "such Government motion picture production and distribution as is deemed necessary to inform and instruct the public during the wartime crisis."

4. Consult with all Government departments "in connection with the film production and distribution programs and consult with and advise motion picture producers of ways and means in which they can most usefully serve in the national effort."

Mr. Roosevelt said establishment of the co-ordinator's office was necessary because "the motion picture, especially as used by the Federal Government, has a very useful contribution to make during the war emergency."

Theatre Men Appointed

Provincial committee members of the Canadian ARP Services, prior to the Toronto conference between provincial and federal authorities, appointed Fire Marshall W. J. Scott, O. J. Silverthorne, director of the provincial Motion Picture Branch and Jack Purves, theatres representative, to a committee to study the problem of fronts and patronage during blackouts.

The problem deals with the in-and-out movement of patrons while the fronts are blacked out. An experimental front has been worked out which, if it proves useful, will be standardized for general use.

A recently-drafted section of the blackout regulations bans outside display lights between sunrise and sunset.

Frozen Money Problem

When Britain froze rentals and receipts of American films the Hollywood business heads found themselves with an extra problem. The money was earned and came under taxation.

Now Washington has decided that film firms needn't pay tax on the frozen cash. It can be deducted from the income.

But it isn't retroactive. Sums paid in the past on locked English earnings stay where they are.

No. 5, RCAF Picks Gene Tierney

(Continued from Page 1)

a flyer. Can't we arrange it some day? It flatters me considerably to realize that you selected me above the runners-up Lana Turner and Veronica Lake for this distinction, but I can suggest that Lana and Veronica would keep your boys up just as long. I'll ask them anyway. Many sincere thanks and if you happen to be lost over New York City after Christmas parachute down to the Astor Theatre where 'Shanghai Gesture' is playing. There will be free tickets for all the boys.

"Your willing passenger."
Gene Tierney.

Incidentally, when it came press time for "The Sky-Line" it was discovered that the engraving of Gene's autographed photo hadn't arived from Toronto. So the boys made the gesture magnificent. They rolled out a bomber and flew the picture back in time.

Ottawa Ponders

(Continued from Page 1)

from the situation. One is McMullen's assurance of fair distribution of product to all. The second was the formation of the Independent Motion Picture Exhibitors Association to handle things relating to the regulations. Barnett Laxer, of Biltmore Theatres, Ltd., which operates houses in Oshawa and Kingston, was made president and Henry Falk was appointed by the new body to represent it on the board.

Benny-Lombard Film Ready

Camera work has been completed on "To Be or Not to Be," the Ernst Lubitsch production starring Carole Lombard and Jack Benny. The national release of this Alexander Korda presentation is slated for the latter part of February.

Adapted by Edwin Justus Mayer from the story by Lubitsch and Melchior Lengyel, "To Be or Not to Be" is a comedy revolving around the exploits of Poland's leading stage couple just prior to the invasion.

The cast in support of Miss Lombard and Benny includes Robert Stack, Felix Bressart, Lionel Atwill, Stanley Ridges, Sig Rumann, Maude Eburne and Tom Dugan.

Complete Theatre Equipment and Supplies
COLEMAN ELECTRIC CO.
258 VICTORIA ST.,
Toronto, Ont.

Ray Allen Opens Houses Soon

Raymond Allen, who resigned from Premier Operating on November 1st to enter the operating field on his own, will be in action on three fronts in February.

He opened the Queen's Theatre, Hespeler, owned by Forbes Estate, on January 12th. The house, closed for two years, will be handled by operator-manager Fred Scholes, formerly of the Hollywood, Toronto. It has been remodelled and equipped with new seating and sound.

The Mavety, Toronto, dark for a decade, brightens up again under Allen's auspices early in February. It has been renovated from top to bottom. In the heart of the busy west-end district known in Toronto as "The Junction," the Mavety has much well-established competition to meet.

The Esquire, Penetang, in operation, comes under Allen's wing on February 1st. William Seavelle is the manager.

According to reports in November at the time of Allen's separation from Premier, he was said to have acquired the Ottawa Valley Circuit of four houses from M. G. O'Brien Ltd. No news of the activities of these houses is forthcoming.

Allen, who is doing his own booking and buying, was joined in December by Lionel Lester, formerly head booker at 20th Century-Fox.

Screen Technique Course in N.Y.

At the moment when making and showing of factual motion pictures has taken on major importance in the national war effort, the City College of New York is inaugurating a complete practical course of study to train experts in this field, it was disclosed by Dr. Harry N. Wright, president of the college, in announcing that the Institute of Film Techniques will open there in February.

A series of 12 workshops and lecture courses conducted by outstanding producers and directors of Government and educational films will be offered by the Institute. These courses have been designed to train experts to supervise the use of fact films in schools and colleges, civilian defence, Government agencies, social service and labor organizations and church and cultural groups, as well as for commercial, industrial and advertising purposes. The Institute will also offer specialized courses for the training of producers and directors of educational and factual films.

The Magic Movies

I am constantly intrigued by celluloid hanky-panky. The audience catches the occasional impossibility, though many obvious ones escape it.

That which the movie fans snort at oftenest is the manner in which the music of a 100-piece orchestra comes suddenly to back up, let's say, the lonely cowboy in the desert singing a song to his horse and playing a guitar. Then there's the heroine who falls in the sea, is pulled out and is not only dry within a few seconds but unbedraggled. Not to forget the lost jungle janes without food and water but apparently with full makeup kit. And how about the heroes of those several-generations sagas who never get a day older?

I saw "The Great Waltz" again the other day and noticed that, in one scene, Meliza Korjus takes a single manuscript copy of Strauss' new waltz, sings it faultlessly after one look—while an orchestra gives her perfect accompaniment.

Westerns, too, get away with some wonderful stunts that would be of great value to the Allies if they could be duplicated outside the studios. Like six-shooters that fire hundreds of bullets. Horses also have that same special character. One bunch on horseback chases another, with shooting going on both ways. Men drop right and left—but no horses. Hollywood horses are bullet-proof.

So what? Nobody cares anyway. And it helps fill space.

A Matter of Approach

For a long time American papers printed maps showing how close to this continent were the Nazis from Norway via Greenland and Iceland. Then one day a New York paper printed one of those maps with the caption: "Only 1500 Miles from Germany.

Instead of them being close enough to attack us we, without gaining a mile, became close enough to attack them.

It all depends how you look at it.

Do You Know One?

The fellow who pats you on the back with one hand and short-changes you with the other. He thinks conversation is legal tender—that's what he pays off with. Sometimes he gets drunk—and robs his own trunk. You're as safe with him as with a six-year-old timber wolf.

I Wonder

There have been occasional opinions expressed that the day of the downtown house is over. Even before the war there were few downtown houses erected.

Neighborhood houses today are every bit as good as main street ones. Their handiness to home, frequent giveaways and lower prices are powerful inducements. Especially in these money-saving days.

Anyhow, what does it matter how old a picture is if you haven't seen it?

Ain't It the Truth?

The most common thing in the world today is courage. A just cause breeds it in the most unexpected circumstances. Our enemies die what seems to be a courageous manner but more often is a reckless disregard for personal safety induced by a driving mania.

There's a story about two soldiers awaiting the order to charge. The smaller one quivered. The larger one laughed at him.

"If you," said the smaller one, "were as scared as I am, you'd run!"

The Irony of It

A popular Toronto novelty is a silk handkerchief with colored prints of the City Hall in one corner and the Queen City's famed Casa Loma in the other. In the centre the Canadian ensign and the Union Jack are crossed.

Patriotic, eh? Sure—but they're made in Japan.

Hollywood—full Speed Ahead

After the temporary period of adjustments following the USA's entrance into the war the film city has turned back to picture making with greater vigor than ever. Though the studios are affected considerably by the state of things, executives of each company have said that they are confident of fulfilling pre-war schedules and keeping up a steady flow to the theatres.

Hollywood shares of the attitude of the country that it is a patriotic duty, for the sake of morale, to carry on in the best way it can and to the same extent as before. English studios set a great example of production under fire.

The studios have stepped up their pace to make up for the handicap of revised working hours and methods.

20th Century-Fox, for instance, has released 25 pictures recently and has 17 more ready. The same state of things exists at all studios.

Gable and Turner Again

Clark Gable and Lana Turner will co-star again in "Somewhere I'll Find You," following their joint triumph in Metro-Goldwn-Mayer's recent "Honky Tonk." Filming of the story is slated to start early this month.

Wesley Ruggles will direct, his first with this combination. His latest film was "You Belong to Me."

Gable has the role of a foreign correspondent in the thick of war and current world events. The story combines comedy and romance with contemporary headline drama.

Pandro S. Berman will produce. He recently brought to the screen "Rio Rita," "Honky Tonk" and "Ziegfield Girl."

Modernistic Stage Curtains & Drapes

Posture-Perfect Seating

CANADIAN THEATRE CHAIR CO.

277 Victoria St., Toronto, Ont.

Digest of Reviews

Paramount

PACIFIC BLACKOUT

A picture perfectly in character with life in American cities today. A swell look at how things will be in most cities when blackouts are organized with complete effectiveness.

Robert Preston is the weapon inventor framed for the killing of his collaborator by Axis pressure on Eva Gabor. Martha O'Driscoll is the telephone operator who helps him keep at large after escape—until he rounds up the villains, staves off an air bombing and proves his innocence.

It is informative and thrilling, working up to a highly suspenseful climax.

Columbia

THREE GIRLS ABOUT TOWN

Much to offer in the way of horsey comedy but mild otherwise. **Some good names on hand**—Joan Blondell, Binnie Barnes, John Howard, Robert Benchley and Eric Blore. Blondell, as a hostess in a convention hotel, is in love with John Howard, a reporter trying to solve a murder.

It moves along with fair clippity-clop. By "mild" we mean some parts of the story's development.

It won't disappoint in neighborhood houses.

Fox

SWAMP WATER

Love, lust and justice among the hillbillies effectively demonstrated in film form by **a strong cast.** It could have been better but is still **plenty powerful.**

Walter Brennan is the fugitive from a wrong murder rap who hides in the Georgia swamplands. Dana Andrews is the young hunter who chances on him, wins his confidence, returns to bring the culprits to justice and marries his daughter, played by Anne Baxter.

Walter Huston, as the youth's father, does his regular good work and John Carradine is the long and lanky sneak who knows the answer to whodunit. Guinn Williams and Eugene Pallette are in the lineup too.

It needs fair support on a double-bill.

Empire-Universal

BURMA CONVOY

A lively little melodrama about the much-publicized Burma Road and the men who go through against Japs and brigands. Spy stuff.

Nicely cast with Charles Bickford, Evelyn Ankers, Frank Albertson, Cecil Kellaway, Keye Luke and others.

HELLZAPOPPIN'

Olson and Johnson, America's main madmen, move their amusing insanity to the screen. Nothing gets in the way of their comedy, particularly in the matter of plot. It's better that way.

Film enacts a suggested scenario for them. They run wild for almost an hour-and-a-half and their efforts are **highly successful.** One series of funny stunts after the other.

To help them are Martha Raye, Mischa Auer, Hugh Herbert, and Shemp Howard—all laugh-getters who don't stand a chance against the zany team.

It's a sure-fire audience picture—if the audience knows what to expect. Anyone walking in during the showing would wonder why it's all happening.

SEALED LIPS

A good supporter whose story background doesn't seem as tough as it used to in the light of current events. But **it's a new twist for the audience.**

It stems from the substitute prisoner racket of some years ago. William Gargan is the detective who makes John Litel replace the substitute doing his time under mob pressure. Litel plays himself and pinch-hitter—a double role. The girl is June Clyde.

A better-than-usual B.

Artkino

WINGS OF VICTORY

Russian films, long slowed by snail's-pace footage, seem to be getting over that defect. This picture is the story of the Russ flying hero, Chkalov, who made the across-the-pole flight from Moscow to Seattle in 1937. Main theme is his efforts to build up the Soviet air force. **Much of the air action work is every bit as good as Hollywood stuff of the same nature.**

It has plenty of thrills for everybody and a good love story. Chkalov, played by Vladimir Belokurov, is a screwball army flyer canned from the service for his air antics. He becomes a test pilot and, against Stalin's suggestion, refuses to land his plane until he proves its flyability. For which he gets a lecture and a blessing from the Soviet leader, excellently portrayed by Mikhail Gelovani.

The picture, having popular ingredients, is certainly less chancey for the exhibitor than most Russian film fare. It has the usual English titles.

Republic

NO HANDS ON THE CLOCK

Has plenty of action but the story plays hide-and-seek with the watcher. Chester Morris is the private detective on his honeymoon with Jean Parker who takes time out to solve a murder mystery so that he can buy his wife a fur coat.

Okay as bottom-half prop.

Regal

BABES ON BROADWAY

Mickey Rooney and Judy Garland in their best yet. Rooney has let down on his juvenile boisterousness and demonstrates some exact talent in impersonations of stars of the past. Judy is more talented and appealing than ever.

Because the plot about kids looking for a break is routine it takes a while to hit its stride. Once it gets going **it nails you to your seat with its terrific tempo.**

To help the kids are such tried and true troupers as Fay Bainter, Jimmy Gleason, Donald Meek and Luis Alberni. On the younger side we have Virginia Weidler, Ray McDonald and Richard Quine. Alexander Woollcott is in it too.

This is a sure money-getter.

Good Business Anticipated

Box-office reports in the United States since the war show that the entrance of that country into the war hasn't affected patronage in a negative way at all. In fact, grosses are up considerably.

The first experience of theatres was a considerable falloff in take, with everyone close to the radio for the newest doings in the Pacific. The arival of newsreels dealing with the subject started a flow back. When the novelty of being a belligerent nation wore off the public went back to its old habits.

Canadian cities were generally strong, with rural houses suffering somewhat. Small town patronage was affected by the 20 per cent federal tax. Also the shifting of citizens to industrial centres for war work.

This year should show well what with governmental encouragement of movies as entertaining and theatres as meeting centres.

Senator Autry?

Gene Autry, the cowboy crooner of movies and radio, is being boomed for the U.S. Senate in Oklahoma.

Efforts to get Autry to enter the Spring campaign and July primary developed in southern Oklahoma recently when the town of Berwyn, Okla., changed its name to Gene Autry, Okla., The cowboy singer recently purchased a 20,000-acre ranch in that vicinity.

Administration critis have been most active in trying to get Autry into the race. A campaign is being waged from Oklahoma to convince the movie industry that it should co-operate in making contract adjustments for Autry.

PRC Winds Up Four New Ones

The arrival in Hollywood of O. Henry Briggs, president of Producers Releasing Corporation found three films in the cutting rooms, another shooting and two additional pictures ready to go within a few days.

Ready for shipment as we go to press are:

"Duke of the Navy," John T. Coyle production, starring Ralph Byrd and Veda Ann Borg, with Stubby Kruger. With the U.S. navy in action all over the world at this moment, it's a cinch that this action comedy of Uncle Sam's bluejackets will be of unusual interest.

"Today I Hang," Merrick-Alexander production starring Mona Barrie and Walter Woolf King, is also being shipped.

"Raiders of the West," Sig Neufeld's second musical western starring Bill (Cowboy Rambler) Boyd, Art Davis and Lee Powell is now in the last stages of cutting and will be ready soon.

Currently in production are:

"Broadway Big Shot," Production of this Jed Buell comedy is well along. Martin Mooney has come through with one of the best stories in his career, that of a football star-reporter framed into prison. Wise cracking Ralph Byrd is cast as the reporter, while charming Virginia Vale is seen as warden Bill Halligan's daughter.

"Girls Town," by the time you see this, Lou Brock and Jack Schwarz will have put their exploitation special before the cameras with an all-star cast headed by Edith Fellowes and June Storey. Others having featured billing are Alice White, Anna Q. Nilsson, Warren Hymer, Kenneth Howell and Vince Barnett. Victor Halperin is directing from the screenplay by Jean Kerr and Vic McLeod.

For Theatre Comfort consult
AIR CONDITIONING ENGINEERING CO.
1104 BAY ST.
Tel. RA. 5576
TORONTO
HEATING AND VENTILATING CONTRACTORS AND ENGINEERS

PICTURE PICKUPS by TAP KEYES

Dear Charlie:

Things are kind of limpy around-and-about just now. Letdown after spreading around the Christmas bonuses war savings and other things. Takes about a month to shake the holiday spirit, it seems.

Was in Oscar Hanson's new offices in the Film Exchange building the other day. Snazzy setup and ready for action but no news of product, etc. for his new exchanges.

I hear Harry Firestone is all set to hop over the nupital hurdles. He's engaged. There ain't many of us single-o's left.

* * * * *

I just had an interesting experience via book-reading. I went through "Lord Broadway," by Dayton Stoddard, which is published by Wilfred Funk, Inc. of New York.

The book is a biography of big-hearted, square-shooting Sime Silverman, founder of Variety, the showfolks bible. He died some years ago, you'll remember. You'll probably agree with the praise unless you were on the other side of the now-historic White Rats theatrical strike. And even if you were I'll bet time has softened you up some.

It sure is a great job of chronicling days that are gone in the show game and on Broadway. You can smell the gaslights and hear the clippity-clop of the hansom horses' hooves.

Variety, according to the book, was in pretty bad shape when the stage began declining and movies growing. Movie ads brought new life to the sheet. It is almost impossible to write the history of Variety and not find much of it that is the story of stage and screen. "Lord Broadway" is also the story of the motion picture's early days, both in production and exhibition.

Many an old-timer lost his stride when the character of theatre entertainment changed—but not Variety.

* * * * *

Speaking of the much-written-about past reminds me of the day I stood talking to an old doormen, an ex-actor, when one of Mavety's trucks delivered some film. He shook his head sadly.

"I can remember when the actors came to town and brought a new life and merriment with them each week," he said. He was a florid speaker.

"Yessir, boy," said my friend. "Those were the times and they were the fellows. Hotel lobbies were lively places then, not hangouts of salesmen, as now. There were handsome men and gay ladies. Money meant nothing.

"The cabbies, the bellhops and the fellows who sold flowers were sure glad to see us. A musician or a stagehand was sure of where next month's rent was coming from. An actor was a roving and romantic fellow. Now the first thing he wants to buy is some real estate to settle down on.

"Actors," he continued, "used to come to town in parlor cars. They rode to the theatre in hacks. Look at that!" He pointed to the tin film containers. "Now they come to town in baggage cars and ride to the theatre in trucks.

"And they come in cans. Can you beat that? In cans—like tomato juice and corned beef hash!"

* * * * *

I kind of sympathized with the old boy. I get a kick out of listening to the old-timers. Theirs was a gayer and more leisurely world.

But now? Gone is the banter. No more is the charm. Fled is the silver. No stagedoor janes or johns. You could die of loneliness in a theatre alley. No glitter, no glamor, no passes, no nothing.

The gypsy dust that clouded the eyes of the actors and sent them singing through the countryside has settled on Hollywood. They grow grapefruit in it now—between movies. What kind of life is that for devotees of a beloved and adventurous art?

Once the screen almost kayoed the stage. That situation has changed. Much of the profits of the stage come from the screen. Great sums are paid for play rights. Unknown actors return from Hollywood to the stage and find themselves top attractions. The studios act as angels for many plays.

Well, Charlie, any time this fellow-irker's scribbling strikes you that way, just holler "Man Overbored" and I'll stop.

Good luck. TAP.

Errol Flynn in New Picture

"Desperate Journey" will be Errol Flynn's next starring picture instead of "Gentleman Jim," it is announced by Warner Bros. The script of the Flynn vehicle is an original screen play by Arthur Horman.

Raoul Walsh, who directed Flynns current picture, "They Died With Their Boots On," will be at the helm again during production of "Desperate Journey."

In addition to Flynn, the cast will include Kaaren Verne, Raymond Massey, Jack Carson, Arthur Kennedy and Alan Hale.

* * *

On the eve of reporting for active duty in the U.S. Army Air Corps, LeRoy Prinz has been granted a short deferment to permit him to stage the big patriotic numbers in "Yankee Doodle Dandy," Warner Bros. picture starring James Cagney.

The Warner production is based on the life and songs of George M. Cohan, grand old man of the American theatre, who has been known throughout his career as a "flag waver.' This aspect of his life will be strongly stressed throughout the film, and two of its biggest numbers will involve vocal, instrumental and visual presentation of two noted Cohn songs which have become timely again. They are "It's a Grand Old Flag" and "Over There."

* * *

Results of the Milwaukee Journal Screen and Radio Magazine's movie poll for 1941 show Warner Bros. scoring a clean sweep.

"One Foot in Heaven was chosen as the best picture of the year and the runner-up was "Sergeant York."

Bette Davis was selected favorite actress and Gary Cooper the

(Continued on Page 6)

"New Super GARDINER Projector"
With Barrel rear shutter
Has no equal for fine projection and long life.
As low as $9.00 weekly.
GET OUR PRICES AND YOU WILL SURELY BUY FROM US
"YOU CAN GUESS THE REASON"

SAVE 20% OR MORE OF YOUR MONEY
on THE BEST IN SOUND, PROJECTORS AND COMPLETE THEATRE SUPPLIES
SPECIALISTS FOR 25 YEARS
ASK THE MAN WHO KNOWS US
DOMINION THEATRE EQUIPMENT CO
847 DAVIE ST VANCOUVER B.C

New Hal Roach Musical Starts

Hal Roach put "Cobana,' a new musical with a Latin American background, into production. Marjorie Woodworth, Bill Marshall, former singer with Fred Waring's band and also on the Broadway stage; George Givot, Claudia Drake, Jane Hazard, Edward Gargan, Jerry Bergen, Jane Kean and Rita Montoya are featured.

The story, concerning the exploits of six beautiful American girls who make a clipper trip to a Latin American Isle, is an original by M. Coates Webster. Four tunes of hit proportions have been composed for the production by Edward Ward, with lyrics by Chet Forrest and Bob Wright. Ed Durant's rhumba orchestra appears in the picture.

* * *

Sam Wood has been engaged by Samuel Goldwyn to direct the forthcoming Goldwyn production based on the life of Lou Gehrig. Wood is now working on casting and hopes to commence shooting soon. Due to his desire for a prolonged honeymoon, Howard Hawks was relieved of this assignment, at his own request.

Directing the Gehrig picture for Mr. Goldwyn will in no way interfere with Mr. Wood's assignment to dircet "For Whom the Bell Tolls". This he will do immediately following completion of the Goldwyn picture.

* * *

Paul Gallico, famous sports writer, has completed his treatment of Samuel Goldwyns forthcoming production based on the life of Lou Gehrig. Gallico and his wife have left Hollywood by motor and will make a leisurely trip across country, stopping off two or three days in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, where Gallico will resume writing his Hiram Holliday stories for Cosmopolitan magazine.

Now

AS FOR THE
PAST 30 YEARS

For Satisfaction
In Theatre
Equipment

PERKINS ELECTRIC
COMPANY LIMITED
277 VICTORIA STREET, TORONTO
2027 BLEURY STREET, MONTREAL

LES VICARY and Ralph Tiede of the Geneva, Orillia, just put over a swell tieup with the Canada Starch Company.

They got the company to give away pictures of airplanes in connection with the showing of "International Squadron." They also promoted a swell window display.

I haven't all the details at hand but if you're interested contact the Geneva or the Canada Starch Company. It costs nothing, so get busy.

They also staged a contest but neglected to say what it was.

* * * * *

STEWART GILLESPIE worked some good ideas on the ace Columbia musical, "You'll Never Get Rich," in which Fred Astaire and Rita Hayworth star.

Borrowing a cutout from another contributor to this column, he played up the army angle in a big way. With Auto-Lite he had 11 display windors around Oshawa and gave out 2,000 autographed photos of the Hayworth girl. Auto-Lite supplied them, along with material on playdates, etc.

One gag was a "Season Pass." Those words were in large letters. The words altogether read: "Don't let a Season Pass without seeing 'You'll Never Get Rich' at the Marks, Oshawa."

They went all over town and caused plenty of comment.

* * * * *

STUART SMART, Capitol, Port Hope sold "One Foot in Heaven" to the folks as a Christmas treat, offering it as his best choice and also that of the General Manager in Toronto. The folks liked the personal touch.

For "Dive Bomber" he planted heralds in the Toronto newspapers, which are delivered to the homes in that town.

A smart way to spread the news of what you're offering.

* * * * *

DOUG PATTERSON, Opera House, Orillia, got a break with "Adventure in Washington" when Winston Churchill came to that city. He lined up all the newsstands for cards reading, "For the latest news from Washington, read these dailies. For the best entertainment see 'Adventure in Washington'."

For a week before the showing of "One Foot in Heaven" he had this sign over the entrance: "Next week you will pass through this door with 'One Foot in Heaven'."

Send them in, boys, and we'll tell the world about them.

VERNON BURNS, Regent, Sudbury, played the patriotic thriller, "Sergeant York." He had Lieut. Mullins, V.C., to come to the theatre with a group. The audience was glad to have a real Canadian hero on hand and gave him a great welcome when he was introduced.

He was introduced with a brief resume of his achievements and gave his opinion of the picture.

This is a rare sort of idea which could be approximated, in a smaller way, in your house.

* * * * *

FROM Mel Stephens, Granada, Dunnville, and Steve McManus, Bayview, Toronto, I got news of the same stunt worked by both.

They put out some 2x4 pink cards, with an occasional blue one inserted. The cards were numbered. If the boy and girl who got similar cards and numbers got together, they received a free pass to the New Years Eve show.

The idea was to have the number-holders look for their "Million Dollar Baby." Little gags like that make advertising mean something, instead of being thrown away. The boys and girls were kept busy looking for their partners.

Stephens, on "The Great American Broadcast," plugged the picture's tunes in juke boxes, music stores and with orchestras. For "Hold That Ghost" he had a 20-foot ghost on a bamboo pole in front of the house before and during the run.

* * * * *

HERE'S a gag brought to my attention by the newly-married Bill Payne of the Granada, St. Thomas.

He announces the details in various ways in order that the public would be prepared. Then when the theatre cashier calls up the party answering gives the passwords—plugs on the picture at the Granada. For that the theatre sends two tickets to the one who answers the phone.

If the one who answers knows nothing about it he or she is told for guidance. So the plug gets in anyway.

New Bette Davis Film

The cameras have finished with Warner Brothers, "In This Our Life," made from the popular book by Ellen Glasgow.

Featured in the film beside Miss Davis are Olivia de Haviland, George Brent and Dennis Morgan.

It will be released in the spring.

Errol Flynn in New Picture

(Continued from Page 5)

favorite actor of the magazine's Cooper's selection was based on his performances in "Meet John Doe" and "Sergeant York." Runner-up to Cooper was Errol Flynn.

* * *

Vincent Sherman has been assigned to direct "The Hard Way," next Ida Lupino starring vehicle. The script is a screen play by Irwin Shaw, noted playwright. Sherman's latest production is "All Through The Night," Humphrey Bogart starrer, soon to be released.

* * *

Richard Travis has been cast in the romantic lead opposite Brenda Marshall in "Escape From Crime," which will star Humphrey Bogart. Travis made his feature debut opposite Bette Davis in "The Man Who Came To Dinner."

Lamour Sarong Prize

Dorothy Lamour's famous sarong, last used in "Aloma of the South Seas," has been shipped to Great Britain as the prize in a contest to be conducted by the London Sunday Pictorial for men in the services.

The contestant starts with the dream that Miss Lamour had asked him to be her guest in London. He must write a letter, supposedly addressed to his superior officer, giving reasons why he should be allowed to keep the date with Dorothy. The most convincing letter gets the flowery fabric.

Columbia Steps Up Program

Anticipating an increasing public demand for entertainment during the war emergency, Columbia Pictures executives announced that during the early months of 1942, they will place before cameras more important productions than have been filmed during any previous entire year in the company's history. That fact thtat bookings of Columbia Pictures during 1941 have established an all-time record, according to the announcement, is responsible in no small measure for the accelerated production activity now planned and paints the way toward the organization's bigger year in 1942.

Gearing to studio to keep well ahead of the nation's need for diversified screen fare of highest quality, and with a more impressive backlog of finished pictures on hand than it was ever before listed, the company will launch its new, record-breaking shooting schedule immediately following New Year's. Meanwhile, the studio is rushing to completion for release early in 1942 such productions as the Marlene Dietrich-Fred MacMurray co-starrer, "Tonight's Our Night" (formerly "The Lady is Willing"), produced and directed by Mitchell Leisen; the Jack London classic. "Adventures of Martin Eden," produced by B. P. Schulberg and Samuel Bronston with Glenn Ford, Claire Trevor and Evelyn Keyes in stellar roles and with Sidney Salkow directing; and "Trinidad," starring Pat O'Brien and Brian Donlevy with Janet Blair, which was directed by Gregory Ratoff for producer Sam Bischoff.

* * *

Alexander Hall, Columbia's ace director of sophisticated laugh films, will be at the helm for "He Kissed The Bride," in which Melvyn Douglas will have the starring male role, opposite an outstanding feminine co-star soon to be annouced. The feature is a fast-paced comedy with a New York background, from the play by Gina Kaus and Andrew P. Solt. Hall and Douglas recently made together the successful Columbia comedies, "He Stayed For Breakfast," and "This Thing Called Love." Mr. Hall is also responsible for the studio's "Here Comes Mr. Jordan," and "Bedtime Story," soon to be released.

* * *

Besie Wade, Forrest Taylor and Jim Corey were added this week to Columbia's new Charles Starrett-Russell Hayden co-starring western, "Down Rio Grande Way," which replaces "After the Alamo," the early title. Rose Ann Stevens plays opposite the starring team, with Davidson Clark, Norman Willis, Bud Buster, Joseph Eggenton, Paul Newlan.

Theatres Study Raid Precautions

Canadian managers recently received instructions re conduct in blackouts. Bob Roddick of Halifax, a member of the Maritimes committee and Jack Purves of Toronto, who is a member of the Provincial Civil Defence Committee made exhaustive studies of the requirements of the various Air Raid Precaution authorities across Canada. The information was pooled to provide the most comprehensive and best possible guidance.

Suggestions were added by various supervisors to meet purely theatrical problems, such as temporary boxoffices inside the theatres for continuance of the sale of tickets and signs for the necesary explanations to the public.

The American exhibitors have applied themselves vigorously to defence theatre problems. The theatre defence bureau of the Los Angeles Defence Council issued 26 tips last week to operators in that area. They are worth reading and keeping on file.

Following are the 26 pointers:

1. Programs to continue uninterrupted; patrons to remain in theatre during alerts, air raid warnings, blackouts and actual attacks.
2. Entire theatre personnel to attend semi-weekly, regular "panic prevention" drills.
3. At least two or more of theatre personnel, including manager, to take Red Cross first aid courses.
4. Theatre managers to serve on local civilian defence councils.
5. Staff members to learn operation of lighting switches.
6. Emergency light equipment to be installed or prepared.
7. Each staff member to be fully familiar with alarms and signals, ordinances, rules and regulations pertaining to precautions and emergencies.
8. No theatre to remain in operation without proper and responsible manpower, on duty every moment.
9. Theatre personnel to reflect cheerfulness; house to be a haven of relief from screaming headlines.
10. Emergency lighting switches should be painted white, enclosed in red circle.
11. Box office drains should be more frequent; change funds to be held to a minimum.
12. Check first-aid kits for each theatre; advise with local Red Cross as to proper equipment under existing conditions.
13. Check all exits, without fail, immediately preceding every opening.
14. Check all ceiling suspensions, such as chandeliers, etc; remove and place in storage if there is any doubt as to their safety.
15. Every theatre should be thrown open to the general public as a refuge in case of actual attack; managers to contact local defence council regarding this and abide by their instrucions.
16. In the event power is interrupted, be prepared to offer some kind of impromptu entertainment from stage; community singing should be considered.
17. Under present conditions, much care and thought should be given to children's matinees.
18. Do not repeat rumors; do not discuss troop movements; do not mention troop concentrations.
19. The National Anthem should be presented at least once during each complete performance.
20. Wherever possible, theatres should be made available for morning classes of Red Cross or other worthy organizations active in defence efforts.
21. Install efficient "page" system in theatre; inform physicians, nurses and others on constant call about such service.
22. Theatre owners should consider making vacant store space available to governmental and defence organizations.
23. Do not break theatre show if there is a troop movement within the immediate vicinity of your theatre; in the event a major break comes at such a time, manager should request from stage that patrons remained seated until troops have passed.
24. Make the theatre a community leader in proper presentation of the American flag and the national colors.
25. Adhere strictly and constantly to every possible precaution in proper handling of films to eliminate fire hazards; check booths to assure this.
26. Instruct your staffs constantly in every phase of your operation until doing the right thing becomes habitual; remain calm and employ sound, common sense at all times.

False Start Chargeable

A new one on the studios was the successful claim against Loew's, Inc. in the New York courts by Conrad Noles, an actor told to ready himself for a screen test by MGM that was never made.

The studio told him to hold still for four weeks. He waited ten without the test, then looked for work again. He was awarded $1,500 on the grounds that, while the studio didn't have to hire Noles, it owed him a screen test at the time. Noles claimed that he had turned down work while waiting.

'Fantasia' Returns To Broadway

Walt Disney's "Fantasia," which bowed out of Broadway after a record-breaking run of fifty-one weeks solely to permit "Dumbo" to make its premiere, returned on a continuous run policy to New York's Broadway Theatre on Saturday, January 10th.

Demand has mounted for a return engagement of this RKO Radio release, both by those who missed it and by others eager for a second study of some special sequence.

Disney and his staff have for months been at work on a popular version of "Fantasia," which made entertainment history through its originality in combining the Philadelphia Symphony Orchestra of 103 instruments with animation.

The fifty-one week Broadway run of "Fantasia" represented the longest one in talking motion picture history.

* * *

Walt Disney's "Dumbo" at the New Gallery is breaking all wartime records with daily intake mounting steadily. Second Week looks set to exceed heavy opening by a wide margin. Film is in for an extended engagement.

Standing line forms at 10 o'clock in the morning with house doing far above capacity.

The same enthusiastic reception is also noted in the provinces.

* * *

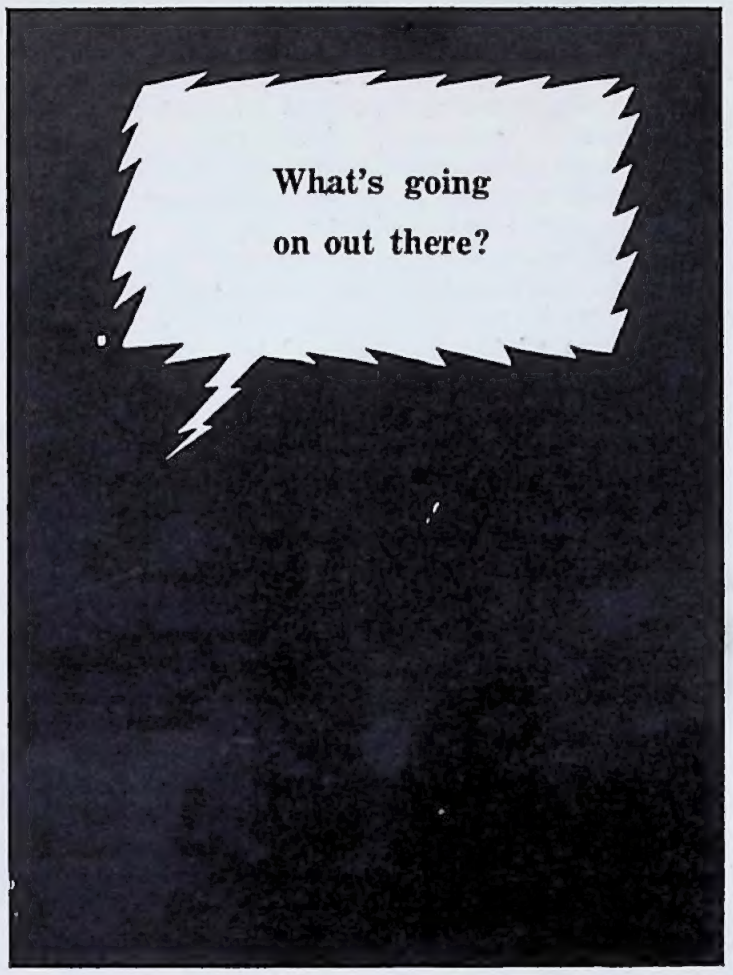
Maurine Watkins has been signed by RKO Radio to write the screen play of "Behold the Bridegroom," the George Kelly stage success recently purchased. The picture version will be produced by Reeves Sspy whose current schedule also includes "There Goes Lona Henry" and "Bombardier."

Miss Watkins came to Hollywood following the success of several plays written for George Kaufman and other prominent producers. Her screen plays include "I Love You Again," "Libeled Lady," "Up the River," and "Search for Beauty."

THE SUCCESS of your THEATRE depends upon GOOD EQUIPMENT

consult GENERAL THEATRE SUPPLY COMPANY Ltd.

104 BOND STREET TORONTO • 334 MAYOR STREET MONTREAL



Don't

Be in the Dark!

Read

CANADIAN Film Weekly

VOICE of the CANADIAN MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY

Covering Canada's Film Front